

13th March 1928]

Encouragement to the Scout movement.

* 1713 Q—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) what the Government are doing to encourage scouting in schools and colleges;

(b) whether the District Educational Officers and their subordinates have been instructed to do anything in the matter;

(c) whether the Government propose to make permanent the appointment of the two Organizing Secretaries of the Scout Association; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to appoint District Scout Masters, to give more liberal grants or do anything else for the promotion of scouting?

A.—(a) The Government have sanctioned a non-recurring grant of Rs. 10,000 to the Boy Scouts Association, Madras, during each of the years 1925-26, 1926-27 and 1927-28. The Association has appointed two organizing secretaries, who tour throughout the Presidency and hold scout training camps and demonstrations and thus encourage the spread of the Boy Scout movement in educational institutions. The Government also sanction grants towards the purchase of books on scouting. Further, in the case of Government institutions, members of the staff are deputed or permitted to get trained as scout masters with a view to organizing scout troops in their institutions.

(b) There is a special heading for remarks on 'Boy Scouts' in the Tabular Inspection Report form for secondary schools and District Educational Officers are asked to report whether a Boy scouts troop is attached to the school and if so, whether the troop has a club room and whether it has distinguished itself in any way. The reports of District Educational Officers are reviewed by the Director of Public Instruction who is thus enabled to make suggestions or to point out defects to the management of the institution.

(c) The question of making the appointment of the Organizing Secretaries permanent is one for consideration by the Boy Scouts Association which is an unofficial organization.

(d) The appointment of District Scout Masters is a question for the Boy Scouts Association and District Scout Councils to settle. There is no proposal to make a larger grant to the Boy Scouts Association.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"Is it a fact, Sir, that the District Educational Officers have reported that scouting is either on the decline in schools or has not progressed?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"No such report has been made."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the report of the Director of Public Instruction for 1926-27 and the quinquennial report which says that scouting is either on the decline or has not progressed?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"They have not reported to the Government."